

SPARK GAP

Vol. 29, Issue 9, September 2012 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-nine years*

On Our MARC...

As I write this column it is September 11th and the country is pausing to remember that fateful day 11 years ago, when our lives would be changed forever. The events that morning in New York City, Washington D.C. and Shanksville, PA , forever altered our sense of safety and security. For the amateur radio community, it was both a call to service and a catalyst for more formalized training and operational guidelines in times of declared emergencies. In his [TechNewsWorld](#) article of August 8, 2012, “Why Ham Radio is Still Handy,” Patrick Nelson, himself a licensed ham, gives a great overview of the role of amateur radio in disaster situations, as well as a snapshot of the hobby and its history. You can read Nelson’s article at .

Each Sunday evening as a part of our weekly net, we run “Amateur Radio Newline,” which as of this past week aired report #1830, an impressive history by any broadcaster’s standard. A couple of weeks ago, prior to the broadcast, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, released a statement that the program was in a difficult financial situation. He reminded listeners that ARN is a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation with an all-volunteer staff. He said that donations would be appreciated and viewed as support for the quality of the programming. Donations can be made at .

Finally, it is picnic weekend. We hope that all of you will be able to join us at the home of N9LC in Franklin, IN. Driving directions are available at the club website. Just bring a chair and a covered dish and join us this Saturday, Sept. 15th at 11:00 a.m. See you there!

Bob - KC9NJM

President





Get on the Air!

Technician License Classes Start Saturday, September 29th at 9 AM at the Subaru of Indiana Training Center, Lafayette. Morse Code is no longer a license requirement. Morse is an optional mode of communication you may learn later if you so wish.

Classes will be taught by Dan, WA9DDI, of the Tippecanoe Amateur Radio Association and Tippecanoe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service groups.

Contact Cheryl, K9HER at to reserve a spot!

No cost except license manuals, approx. \$30. Exam will be given at end, cost about \$16.

Be sure to contact Cheryl! You will need to be "on the list" to get through the SIA gate, 2nd stoplight west of I-65 exit 168.

"My Antenna" *by K3NG*

- didn't wake you up at 3 a.m. last night with loud music.
- doesn't mind it when you leave your curtains open and walk around naked in your house.
- doesn't rev up it's engine for two hours like Joe does down the street with his old Mustang on Friday nights.
- won't pollute your water well.
- Didn't mess up your TV yesterday, but the signal coming out it may have. Sorry about that. I can fix that if you'll let me.
- Won't drive up on the curb and over your flowers and shrubs.
- Doesn't belong to a gang.
- Isn't as cute as the woman next door, but my antenna didn't call the township office like the woman next door did when you didn't get a building permit.
- will never be on a sexual predator list.
- doesn't bark at everything that moves.
- is a technological sculpture ... well, to me, at least.
- is a gathering place for birds, when they're not over at your bird feeder.

Come to think of it, my antenna is a pretty good neighbor!

Thanks to Bruce K9ICP for sharing this with us.

Indiana Parks on the Air

The leaves have not turned yet, but last weekend I caught Fall Fever. Saturday's seventy degree weather was a perfect excuse to pack a cooler, a picnic lunch and head for one of Indiana's State Parks. It just so happens last Saturday was the second annual Indiana State Parks on the Air contest. It ran from noon until 8pm that evening.

As my wife Dee Dee and I headed south on I-65 she was surprised to see an extra bag of chips, a radio, mast, coax, marine battery and 20 meter antenna. Of yes, we just might power up the radio and talk to friends when we get there.

We were pleasantly surprised to find Charlestown State Park a perfect venue for working the contest, watching the wildlife, eating lunch and watching the river barges move up the Ohio River. To our delight, we found an observation platform sitting right over the western edge of the Ohio River.

I worked 20 meters until 2pm them tried 40 meters using my same 20 meter dipole ham sticks. The radio auto tuned just fine and finally I started making contacts closer to home.

In the early going I made 20 meter contacts with many of the Route 66 Special Event folks stationed from Chicago to San Diego. I also checked in with the HMS Bounty, a tall ship, anchored off of Moose Island near Lubek, Maine. Florida Texas, New York and Louisiana provided a few contacts too.

I finally got Ohio and Indiana Park contacts on 40 meters later that afternoon. Contest wise it was not a big success, but I had a great day with my wife, radio and Mother Nature while casting for Parks on the Air contacts from the banks of the Ohio River.

If you need a place to field test your HF radio or a nice place to picnic and watch the river traffic, I would recommend paying a visit to the Charlestown State Park. You will find it about 80 miles south of Indy off I-65.

-Jack w8ish



Jack HF on the Ohio River



Dee Dee on the Ohio River

**Election of 2012 - 2013 MARC Officers
will take place at the September 22nd monthly meeting.
Please vote for you new club offices.**

2012 Indiana Hamfests

Sept. 22	Greenfield Hamfest Hancock County Fairgrounds
Oct. 6	Hoosier Hills Hamfest , Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford , http://www.w9qyq.org/
Nov. 17-18	Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM
Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT
Secretary: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

